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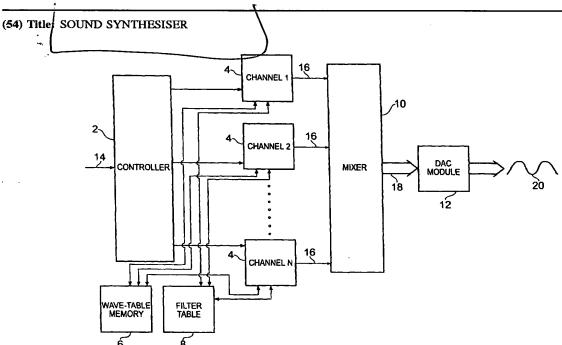
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(57) Abstract: A sound synthesiser is provided that reduces the computational requirements of a synthesiser with a high degree of polyphony, while ensuring that audible artefacts are kept to a minimum. The synthesiser comprises a plurality of samples stored in a memory (6); a plurality of voices (4, 16) each comprising means for calculating an output using a plurality of samples selected from the plurality of samples stored in the memory (6); wherein a voice (4, 16) is active when calculating an output; wherein the number of samples selected by the means for calculating depends upon the number of active voices (4, 16).